



**NEWZLETTER  
MARCH 2011**



*This Months cover shot is an insider's view of a cut down Model A Ford Engine.....*

***The New Zealand Rebel A Ford Club  
C/- 492 Main Road Hope, R.D.1., Richmond, Nelson 7081, New Zealand.***

**[www.modelafordclub.co.nz](http://www.modelafordclub.co.nz)**

**A CHAPTER MEMBER OF M.A.F.C.A. (USA)**



*Rebels & Cars in the USA .....*



*USA "HAL" Model A Ford Twin Cam speedster engine*



*Flat head four engined speedster*



*Ross tries out his first LHD car one of those double 4's*



*Just some of the pile of parts Derek & Ross cane across (too dear)*



*Derek found this Miller head with lots of repairs for lots of \$\$\$\$\$*



*and an early presumably 32 Ford Paddy Wagon van...*

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*Membership of The New Zealand Rebel A Ford Club is open to anyone with a sincere interest in Henry's Model A Ford automobile, with a bent towards touring and modified vehicles. The purpose of the club which meets only every 2 years is to enjoy, preserve and use the Model A Ford Automobile.*

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### REBELS ON THE WEB

The Rebel's and the 2011 National Rally are using some of the North Island Model A's website for our own, so check it out, same name. The latest updated showing the 2011 Rally entrants.....

[www.modelafordclub.co.nz](http://www.modelafordclub.co.nz)

### 2011 NATIONAL RALLY

Not long to go now till the April 14<sup>th</sup> start in Nelson (Hope). Will try and arrange a visit with the early arriving American guests in Auckland for Rebel members, and if so we will let you know when and where.

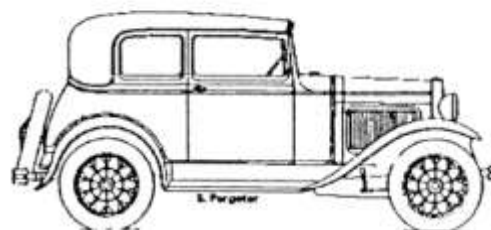
The latest Early-Bird newsletter has just gone out and Entries have closed with just over 120 on the books including an impressive 25 from overseas with about 15 cars coming from the USA.

Committee meeting regularly and have everything in hand.

This will be a true driving event, with one highlight the off road morning out of Blenheim.....

## Antique Ford Parts

Derek & Judy Thomason  
492 Main Road, Hope  
RD 1 Richmond, Nelson NZ.  
Phone & Fax 03 544 7826



Nelson

# Auckland-Wellington Records

Near the end of a recent article on the inter-city record attempts, I mentioned briefly a successful run organised by Wilkinson & Co. Ltd, Ford Dealers of Cambridge. Through the kindness of Mr J. A. Wilkinson, grandson of the firm's founder, I have a lot more information on this interesting effort, most of it taken from a well published booklet advertising the success.

K. L. Wilkinson and his father Arnold were motoring pioneers in the Cambridge district. The latter had the first motor cycle there, at a time when petrol was imported from Melbourne in gallon glass jars. He achieved renown as a mechanic, and cars were railed for his attention from all over the Auckland province. Ken Wil-

kinson and Neville Souter organised a motor cycle club and engaged in grass track racing in the early twenties. Wilkinson & Co. Ltd became Ford dealers in 1919, and are now the oldest Ford dealers in New Zealand under one family management.

## by Doug Wood

Wizard Smith's 1924 Auckland-Wellington record still stood, but at 12 hours 21 minutes, according to Wilkinson's, not 13 hours 19 minutes as recorded elsewhere. In the autumn of 1931, Ken Wilkinson considered that he had every chance of beating this time with a Model A, and also of completing the drive in top gear only. He chose a coupe, and ran it in earnestly for 12:50 miles. Satisfied that

he had a good car, and with no more mechanical preparation than an oil change and an ignition check, he was ready for the test.

In discussing the route before starting, the official observer, who had done the trip before, remarked: "Now that the new deviation is open, you will miss the Bombay Razorback". That was a latent challenge from the older school of motorists, which young Wilkinson at once accepted. He would do it too. "Get your seals on the gearbox, and I'll go out and do the Razorback in top, both ways." The observer, Don Detchin, later wrote: "I embarked on the journey very sceptically, not believing for a moment that a four cylinder car carrying over 5 cwt could negotiate the notorious Razorback in anything

This meritorious endeavour received the praise it deserved, and I think it would be difficult to beat today, but this is not yet the end of the story. When the engine was reassembled, the car and crew set off to return to Auckland, this time via the Wairarapa, on an observed fuel consumption test. They used a rather laborious method of refuelling from 4 gallon cans to be absolutely sure of the results, and were rewarded with 28.22 mpg, a ton mileage of 36.88. Despite the top gear starts on each occasion, the clutch and transmission stood up to the task nobly—in fact no part of the car needed replacement. The only adjustments were to the brakes—jars two notches, fronts one notch.

Once again, a performance difficult to equal, even today. And here now is the end of the story. On 17 June in the Otahuhu Magistrates Court, Inspector Barrett of the Highways Board submitted in evidence on behalf of the police, that from information gleaned from an advertising booklet, Wilkinson had travelled from Auckland to Papakura in 21 minutes, an average speed of 54 mph. He was convicted and fined £20 by Mr Levein. As the full penalty was £100 on each count, he was lucky not to have been fined for the whole trip on the evidence he so obligingly provided.



approaching top gear. The average motorist will tell you it cannot be done, but this car made it appear child's play, even though the road is now in shocking condition; only those familiar with the hill will fully appreciate the steepness, the corners and the water-scoured surface that usually demand funeral progress in low gear, the grades increasing to 1 in 4".

Accordingly, on Easter Tuesday, 14 April 1931, the Ford pulled out of Auckland at 4 a.m. with the two men, their luggage, and a pile of morning newspapers just off the press. It was a standard car, 3.77 to 1 differential, 4.22 to 1 compression ratio, and fully equipped. They made Hamilton in 1 hour 40 minutes, stopped for petrol at Oturohanga, met a mob of sheep on Mt Messenger, a full gale in Taranaki pulling them back ten miles an hour in top speed, until after 6 hours 14 minutes they stopped at Stratford for food and fuel. Pushing on, Wilkinson had frustrating moments with more mobs of cattle and sheep, and at the "Paekak" hill, a slow moving truck, oblivious of the urgency spurring the car behind, nearly forced the Ford to stop. "It seemed impossible to pick up speed again in top gear, but the Ford engine gives its best at low revs and by retarding the spark, and without slipping the clutch, it gathered way." So said the booklet describing the run, and Model A addicts will agree.

They pulled up outside the C.P.O. Wellington, spick and span, 471 miles after the start in 10 hours 49 minutes, the actual running time being 13 minutes less.

When everything cooled down, Don Detchin had the engine completely taken down to check that none but standard parts had been used, and it was noted that not only was the engine standard in every way, but it was in as-new condition.



Ken Wilkinson, against the car, and his observer Don Detchin with the successful Model "A". Colonial Motor Co., assisted by arranging for the car to have an extra side mounted spars wheel.

2010  
**SILVER FERN RALLY**  
www.silverfernally.co.nz

**P.F. SMITH RALLY SERVICES**  
Promoting NZ Motoring and Motorsport events  
PO Box 344, Pukekohe 2340, New Zealand  
2010 NZ Silver Fern Rally - 2011 NZ Model A Ford National Rally  
www.modelafordclub.co.nz

**NEW ZEALAND**  
**MODEL A**  
**CLUB**

### AUCKLAND SWAPMEETS :-

Kumeu – well what can one say the show is about cars, and the more modern shit they let in the less interested I am .... as for the Swapmeet, well again the stuff is getting more modern but some bargains snapped up by the intrepid lot who stay at the Elliott Motel for the weekend..\

Pukekohe – well what can one say – wet again for about the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row, all those profits built up after so many good years must be diminishing...

Warkworth / Wellsford – didn't go but heard good reports, and believe the new Parts man had a good day and made some sales....

Of special (or not) note the Hamilton restorer did have to leave the Kumeu event a day early and was also not seen at Pukekohe due to "other" commitments – maybe just getting too old....? but believe family ties will drag him south to Levin this weekend.....

### NOTICE OF REBEL AGM :-

Our bi-annual AGM will take place as always at the national event, this time there will be a time allotted at the Christchurch stopover, and it will be at the Papanui Club (earthquakes permitting) and time and details will be published in the National Rally Book.

There will be a change to subs to allow for the electronic distribution of Newzletters and other information at a reduced cost.

I would like to see Subs for a 2 year period to co-incide with the AGM and Nationals, and for costs to be \$15.00 for e-mail outs, and \$30 for posted out. – give this some thought?

### NEW REBEL A CLUB JACKET PATCHES :-

- REBEL 'A' Club Members Jacket patches ( same as our logo on news letter ) 5" x 2-1/4" oval in shape. Now available on order, once enough ordered will get made, cost \$15-00 each. Send your money & address to Judy Thomason, Rebel A's, 429 Main Rd Hope, RD1, Richmond, Nelson, New Zealand.



### FOR SALE / WANTED / ETC

*Contact your editor for any adverts please before next newsletter. (private and commercial)*

- Taupo Tool Seminar books \$20.00 or on DVD \$10.00
- contact Paul Smith 09-2369909
- [model.a.paul@ps.gen.nz](mailto:model.a.paul@ps.gen.nz)



**NEWS / SNIPPETS / GOSSIP.....ANYTHING.....**

News from the almost far North, Daggy and Lauren now married, and the Pickup is on its way (by transporter of all things) to the South Island for the honeymoon trip...

Sad news with the passing of Opito Rebel Barbara Hoyland, our thoughts with Dugald and all the extended family, thru to grandfather Hoyland (Len).

Right-oh, I need to know what is going on out there? If you have some info, maybe photos of your restoration please send them thru to me [model.a.paul@ps.gen.nz](mailto:model.a.paul@ps.gen.nz), PO Box 344, Pukekohe 2340.

**DEREK & ROSS IN THE USA –**

See the photos above, all in an old yard in LA . Owner has about 5 acres of yard took 3 hours to just look, He is 82 & on a walker. Tons & tons of early vehicles. trucks, veterans vehicles, A lot of rare stuff , many 40's complete vehicles , Prices are way over the moon like \$3500 us for the stuffed head, 30 2dr road worthy, but old resto \$17000, 30 roadster much the same condition \$22k. Spent 1/2 a day talking & looking but came away empty handed, Believe this old yard, highly fenced, in the middle of houses will end up as scrap, He has only 4 daughters & recently lost his wife, Nice guy but living in a dream & has know idea or forgotten what's in the yard & many sheds, Truly one of the largest yards I have been in a long time, Arrived for San Diego swap meet, Friday set up day, scored some parts, Saturday they tried to evacuated the stadium due to rain & flooding , 50% left, cleared up in afternoon, Sunday fine day but only 1/2 the normal size. From there to Phoenix to Arizona model A Parts , Received the grand tour By Sammy , pos one of the largest collection of orig A parts anywhere, plus many restored vehicles, From there up to Selma north of Bakersfield, checked out antique shops returning later in the day, scored some more parts, Saturday morning it was all on, By this time the rental Ford was bulging at the seams with bargains, Off to LA to visit with the Moshers, What a collection of orig parts, Speed gear like never seen before, Plus the two record breaking vehicles, The 4v4 belly tank plus the dragster, A truly amazing collection. Next was the wrecking yard as above, Time to head to Mainfreight ( Kiwi shipping) unload the SUV, re adjust the headlights due to the rear coming back up level ??? Visit Vintique to fill extra suitcases, CW Moss. etc. Down to airport & pay the extra suitcase levy of \$50. Bastards, Ross got inspected every time, WHY well try getting a suitcase full of Model A Horns through the radar??? Moral is there aint nothing like a USA swap meet. Ready for the next one once rested .....Derek.



**REBEL NEWZLETTER**

(Newzletter in our case not Newsletter – just in case you thought I couldn't smell.)

The Newzletter is for you so should also be about you, any snippets or gossip welcomed.

.....Next Newzletter coming your way sometime soon.....